GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3105
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
TELECOM SERVICES ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS/ RAIL ROUTES
Pateriya Smt. Neeta

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private companies are providing better services to the customers as compared to the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether telecom facilities are available on the national highways and rail routes in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if not, the reasons for non-availability of BSNL network at Nagpur road Kurai to Khawasa and Jabalpur to Bhopal highways and Katni-Bina and Jabalpur-Itarasi rail routes; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be made available?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)&(b) As per the quality of service performance reports for the quarter ended December 2004, like other private operators, BSNL is also meeting most of the benchmarks in large number of circles. However, in case of Basic Service, it is lagging behind the private operators in respect of a number of parameters like `Fault incidents per 100 subscribers per month`, `Fault repaired by next working day`, `Mean Time to repair` and `Call completion rate`. BSNL is providing the basic service through wire line network as opposed to predominantly wireless in case of private operators.

(c) to (e) Telecom facilities are available on national highways and rail routes in Madhya Pradesh. However, seamless coverage of Cellular Services is not available along the national highways and rail routes. As per the terms and conditions of the license agreement a service provider is to cover 50% of District Headquarters and coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. License Agreement does not envisage seamless coverage along national highways and rail routes.